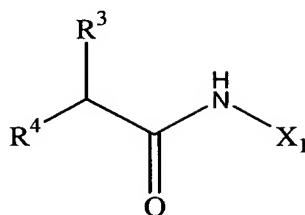


WE CLAIM:

1. A compound of Formula I:



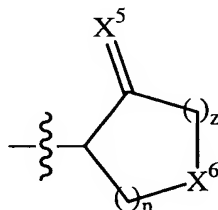
I

in which:

X¹ is -C(R¹)(R²)X² or -X³;

- X² is cyano, -CHO, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)R⁵, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)CF₃, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)CF₂CF₂R⁹,
 10 -CH=CHS(O)₂R⁵, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)CF₂C(O)NR⁵R⁶, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)C(R⁷)(R⁸)NR⁵R⁶,
 -C(R⁷)(R⁸)C(R⁷)(R⁸)OR⁵, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)CH₂OR⁵, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)CH₂N(R⁶)SO₂R⁵,
 -C(R⁷)(R⁸)C(R⁷)(R⁸)N(R⁶)(CH₂)₂OR⁶, -C(R⁷)(R⁸)C(R⁷)(R⁸)N(R⁶)(CH₂)₂NR⁶ or
 -C(R⁷)(R⁸)C(R⁷)(R⁸)R⁵; wherein R⁵ is (C₁₋₄)alkyl, (C₆₋₁₀)aryl(C₀₋₆)alkyl,
 hetero(C₄₋₁₀)aryl(C₀₋₆)alkyl, (C₄₋₁₀)cycloalkyl(C₀₋₆)alkyl or
 15 hetero(C₄₋₁₀)cycloalkyl(C₀₋₆)alkyl; R⁶ is hydrogen or (C₁₋₆)alkyl; R⁷ is hydrogen or
 (C₁₋₄)alkyl and R⁸ is hydroxy or R⁷ and R⁸ together form oxo; R⁹ is hydrogen, halo,
 (C₁₋₄)alkyl, (C₅₋₁₀)aryl(C₀₋₆)alkyl or hetero(C₅₋₁₀)aryl(C₀₋₆)alkyl;

X³ represents a group of Formula (a):



(a)

in which n is 1 or 2, z is 0 or 1, X^5 is selected from NR^{10} , S or O, wherein R^{10} is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl, and X^6 is O, S or NR^{11} , wherein R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{15}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{15}$, in which

5 X^4 is a bond or (C_{1-6}) alkylene; R^{12} at each occurrence independently is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl; R^{13} is hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl, R^{14} is (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^{15} is (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-3}) alkyl, (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{5-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, (C_{9-12}) bicycloaryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl or hetero (C_{8-12}) bicycloaryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl;

10 wherein within X^1 any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical R^{20} selected from $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$; and wherein X^1 and R^{20} may be

15 substituted further with 1 to 5 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$ wherein X^4 , R^{12} ,

20 R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above;

R^1 and R^2 are both fluoro; or

R^1 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$,

25 $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} ,

30 R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above; or R^1 and R^2 taken together with the carbon atom to which both R^1 and R^2 are attached form (C_{3-8}) cycloalkylene or hetero (C_{3-8}) cycloalkylene;

wherein R^2 , said cycloalkylene and said heterocycloalkylene may be substituted further with 1 to 3 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined above;

R^3 and R^4 are independently $-C(R^{16})(R^{17})X^7$, wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or fluoro, or R^{16} is hydrogen and R^{17} is hydroxy and X^7 is selected from $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above;

wherein within one of R^3 or R^4 any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical R^{21} selected from $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} and R^{15} are as defined above; and wherein each of R^3 , R^4 and R^{21} may be substituted further with 1 to 5 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined above; provided that only one bicyclic ring structure is present within each of R^3 or R^4 ; and provided that when X^2 is cyano and X^7 within one of R^3 or R^4 is $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$ or $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, wherein X^4 is a bond, then X^7 within the other of R^3 or R^4 is limited to

$-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, wherein R^{15} is (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{1-6}) alkyl substituted with 1 to 5 radicals or hetero (C_{5-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 radicals, wherein said radicals are independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$,
 5 $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined above, provided that the radical is not selected from only halo when R^{15} is (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{1-6}) alkyl; and provided that when X^2 is cyano then X^7 within R^3
 10 and R^4 is not $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ or $-X^4C(O)NR^{18}R^{19}$, wherein X^4 is a bond and R^{18} and R^{19} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form hetero (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl or hetero (C_{5-10}) aryl;

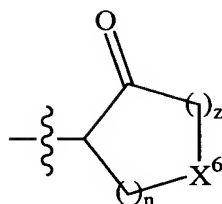
and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and
 15 solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

2. The compound of Claim 1 in which:

X^1 is $-C(R^1)(R^2)X^2$ or $-X^3$;

20 X^2 is cyano, $-CHO$, $-C(O)R^5$, $-C(O)CF_3$, $-C(O)CF_2CF_2R^9$, $-CH=CHS(O)_2R^5$, $-C(O)CF_2C(O)NR^5R^6$, $-C(O)C(O)NR^5R^6$, $-C(O)C(O)OR^5$, $-C(O)CH_2OR^5$, $-C(O)CH_2N(R^6)SO_2R^5$, $-C(O)C(O)N(R^6)(CH_2)_2OR^6$, $-C(O)C(O)N(R^6)(CH_2)_2NR^6$ or $-C(O)C(O)R^5$, wherein R^5 is (C_{1-4}) alkyl, (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{4-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, (C_{4-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl or hetero (C_{4-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, R^6 is hydrogen or
 25 (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^9 is halo;

X^3 represents a group of Formula (b):



(b)

in which n is 1 or 2, z is 0 or 1, X^6 is O or NR^{11} , wherein R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$,
 5 $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{15}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{15}$, in which X^4 is a bond or (C_{1-6}) alkylene; R^{12} at each occurrence independently is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl; R^{13} is hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl, R^{14} is (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^{15} is (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-3}) alkyl, (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl,
 10 hetero (C_{5-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, (C_{9-12}) bicycloaryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl or hetero (C_{8-12}) bicycloaryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl;

wherein within X^1 any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical selected from $-R^{15}$ and $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$; and wherein X^1 may be substituted further with 1 to 3 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl,
 15 halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above;

R^1 and R^2 are both fluoro; or

R^1 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, $-X^4OR^{13}$ and $-R^{15}$; or R^1 and R^2 taken together with the carbon atom
 20 to which both R^1 and R^2 are attached form (C_{3-8}) cycloalkylene or hetero (C_{3-8}) cycloalkylene; wherein R^2 may be substituted further with (C_{1-6}) alkyl; wherein X^4 , R^{13} and R^{15} are as defined above;

R^3 and R^4 are independently $-C(R^{16})(R^{17})X^7$, wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or fluoro, or R^{16} is hydrogen and R^{17} is hydroxy and X^7 is selected from
 25 $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$ and $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{15} are as defined above;

wherein within one of R^3 or R^4 any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical selected from $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} and R^{15} are as defined above; and wherein each of R^3 and R^4 may be substituted further with 1 to 5 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined above;

wherein within one of R^3 and R^4 any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical selected from $-R^{15}$ and $-X^4OR^{15}$; and wherein each of R^3 or R^4 may be substituted further by 1-5 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

3. A compound of claim 2 in which R^3 and R^4 are independently $-CH_2X^7$, wherein X^7 is selected from X^4SR^{13} , $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$ and $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 is a bond or (C_{1-6}) alkylene, R^{12} at each occurrence independently is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl, R^{13} is hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl, R^{14} is (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^{15} is (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-3}) alkyl, (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{5-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, (C_{9-12}) bicycloaryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl or

hetero(C₈₋₁₂)bicycloaryl(C₀₋₆)alkyl; wherein within R³ and R⁴ any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical selected from -R¹⁵ and -X⁴OR¹⁵, wherein X⁴ and R¹⁵ are as defined above; and wherein R³ and R⁴ may be substituted further by 1 to 5 radicals independently selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -X⁴NR¹²C(O)OR¹², -X⁴OR¹³, -X⁴C(O)OR¹², -X⁴C(O)R¹³, -X⁴C(O)NR¹²R¹², -X⁴NR¹²S(O)₂R¹³ and -X⁴S(O)₂R¹⁴, wherein X⁴, R¹², R¹³ and R¹⁴ are as defined above;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

4. A compound of claim 3 in which R³ is selected from 5-bromo-thiophen-2-ylmethyl, 3-cyclohexylpropyl, 2-cyclohexylpropyl, 2-cyclopentylpropyl, 3-phenylpropyl, 3-(2-difluoromethoxy)phenylpropyl, 2-phenylcyclopropylmethyl, 2,2-difluoro-3-phenylpropyl, 1-benzylcyclopropylmethyl, 2-tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylethyl, 1-isobutylcyclopropylmethyl, thiophen-2-ylmethyl, tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl, cyclopropylmethylsulfanylmethyl, 2,2-dimethyl-3-phenylpropyl, 4-methyl-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 3-methyl-[1,2,4]thiadiazol-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, thiophen-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 3-methoxy-5-methyl-isoxazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 2,4-dimethyl-thiazol-5-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 2-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 2-methyl-thiazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 1,2,3]thiadiazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 3-methyl-[1,2,4]thiadiazol-5-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 4-methyl-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, thiophen-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxymethyl, piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl, thiophene-2-sulfonylmethyl, 3-chloro-2-fluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, benzenesulfonylmethyl, benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-benzenesulfonyl-ethyl, 2-(pyridine-2-sulfonyl)-ethyl, 2-(pyridine-4-sulfonyl)-ethyl, 2-benzylsulfonyl-ethyl, oxy-pyridin-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, prop-2-ene-1-sulfonylmethyl, 4-methoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl, *p*-tolylmethylsulfonylmethyl,

- 4-chloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, *o*-tolylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 3,5-dimethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 4-trifluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-bromo-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 pyridin-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, pyridin-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 5 pyridin-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, naphthalen-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-methyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-trifluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 4-fluoro-2-trifluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-fluoro-6-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-chloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 10 2-fluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-trifluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-cyano-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-*tert*-butyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-fluoro-3-methyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-fluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 4-fluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-chloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2,5-difluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2,6-difluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 15 2,5-dichloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 3,4-dichloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-cyano-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-cyano-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-trifluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2,3-difluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2,5-difluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 biphenyl-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 3-fluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 20 3,4-difluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2,4-difluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2,4,6-trifluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2,4,5-trifluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2,3,4-trifluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2,3,5-trifluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2,5,6-trifluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-chloro-5-trifluoromethylbenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonyl, 2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylbenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 25 2-fluoro-4-trifluoromethylbenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-fluoro-5-trifluoromethylbenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylbenzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-methoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 3,5
 bis-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-difluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-difluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-difluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 30 2,6-dichloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, biphenyl-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 3,5-dimethyl-isoxazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,

5-chloro-thiophen-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-[4-(1,1-Difluoro-methoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-ethyl,
 2-[2-(1,1-Difluoro-methoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-ethyl,
 2-[3-(1,1-Difluoro-methoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-ethyl,
 5 2-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-ethyl,
 2-(3-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-ethyl,
 2-(2-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-ethyl, (cyanomethyl-methyl-carbamoyl)-methyl,
 biphenyl-3-ylmethyl, 2-oxo-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl, 2-benzenesulfonyl-ethyl,
 isobutylsulfonylmethyl, 2-phenylsulfonyl-ethyl, cyclohexylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 10 2-cyclohexyl-ethanesulfonyl, benzyl, naphthalen-2-yl, benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, phenylsulfonyl-ethyl and
 cyclopropylmethylsulfonylmethyl;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual
 isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and
 15 solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected
 derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

5. A compound of claim 4 in which R^4 is selected from
 2-trifluorobenzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-phenylsulfonylpropyl, 4-chlorobenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 20 thiophen-2-ylsulfonylmethyl, benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-methylbenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-phenylsulfonyl-ethyl, 2-pyridin-2-ylsulfonyl-ethyl, 2-pyridin-4-ylsulfonyl-ethyl,
 2-benzylsulfonyl-ethyl, 2-(3-difluoromethoxyphenylsulfonyl)-ethyl,
 naphthalen-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, pyridin-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-methylbenzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-trifluoromethylbenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 25 3-difluoromethoxybenzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-chlorobenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-fluorobenzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-fluorobenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-cyanobenzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-cyanobenzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3,4-difluorobenzylsulfonylmethyl, benzylsulfonylmethyl,
N-cyanomethyl-*N*-methylcarbamoylmethyl, 3-bromobenzyl, 4-phenylbutyl, 2,2-difluoro-
 30 3-phenylpropyl, 4'-methylsulfonylaminobiphenyl-3-ylmethyl,
 4'-ethoxycarbonylaminobiphenyl-3-ylmethyl, 4-methylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonylmethyl,

- 1-fluoro-2-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl, 1-hydroxy-4-methylpiperazin-1-yl-2-oxoethyl, 1-hydroxy-2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl, 1-hydroxy-2-oxo-2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl, 1-fluoro-2-oxo-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl, 1-fluoro-2-isopropylamino-2-oxoethyl, 1-hydroxy-2-isopropylamino-2-oxoethyl, 1-fluoro-2-oxo-2-piperazin-1-ylethyl,
- 5 thiophen-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 4-methyl-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 3-methoxy-5-methyl-isoxazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 2,4-dimethyl-thiazol-5-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 2-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 2-methyl-thiazol-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 2-([1,2,3]thiadiazol-4-ylmethylsulfonyl)-ethyl, 2-(3-methyl-[1,2,4]thiadiazol-5-ylmethylsulfonyl)-ethyl, 2-oxo-2-phenyl-ethyl,
- 10 2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-benzenesulfonyl-ethyl, 2-naphthalen-2-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-biphenyl-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, 4-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 2-(3-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-ethyl, 2-oxo-2-(4-phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl, 2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, benzylcarbamoyl-methyl,
- 15 4-acetyl-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester, cyclohexylcarbamoylmethyl, 2-(3-Chloro-benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl)-2-oxo-ethyl, benzenesulfonylmethyl, 2-oxo-2-thiophen-2-yl-ethyl, 2-oxo-2-thiophen-3-yl-ethyl, naphthalene-2-sulfonylmethyl, 2-(5-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-(3-chloro-thiophen-2-yl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 5-methyl-thiophene-2-sulfonylmethyl, phenylcarbamoylmethyl,
- 20 (5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-1-ylcarbamoyl)-methyl, (4-carbamoyl-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl, (3-carbamoyl-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl, (butyl-methyl-carbamoyl)-methyl, biphenyl-4-ylmethyl, 2-oxo-2-*p*-tolyl-ethyl, 2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxy-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-oxo-2-(4-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-ethyl,
- 25 2-(3,4-difluoro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 5-methyl-2-oxo-hexyl, 3,5-dimethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl; 4-trifluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl, isopropylcarbamoyl-methyl, 4-dimethylcarbamoylmethyl, pyridin-4-ylcarbamoylmethyl,
- 30 pyridin-4-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, pyridin-3-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 3,4-dichloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, pyridin-3-ylcarbamoylmethyl,

- 4-methoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-chloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 thiophene-2-sulfonylmethyl, benzylsulfonylmethyl, *p*-tolylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-benzenesulfonyl-ethyl, 2-(pyridine-2-sulfonyl)-ethyl, 2-(pyridine-4-sulfonyl)-ethyl,
 2-benzylsulfonyl-ethyl, 2-[3-(1,1-Difluoro-methoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-ethyl,
 5 naphthalen-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl, pyridin-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
m-tolylmethylsulfonylmethyl, 3-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-trifluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 3-chloro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-fluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-fluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-cyano-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-cyano-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 10 3,4-difluoro-benzylsulfonylmethyl, (cyanomethyl-methyl-carbamoyl)-methyl,
 3-bromo-benzyl, 2-oxo-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl, 2-(4'-chloro-biphenyl-4-yl)-2-oxo-ethyl,
 biphenyl-3-ylmethyl, 2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 2-(4-methylsulfonylamino-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-oxo-2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl,
 2-(4-methylsulfonyl-piperazin-1-yl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 15 4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl, 4-carboxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3,5-bis-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 4-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 3-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzylsulfonylmethyl,
 5-chloro-thiophen-2-ylmethylsulfonylmethyl,
 20 2-[4-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-ethyl,
 2-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-ethyl, 2-phenylsulfanyl-ethyl,
 benzylsulfanylmethyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfanylmethyl,
 2-trifluoromethoxy-benzylsulfanylmethyl, 2-cyclohexyl-ethyl and isobutylsulfanylmethyl;
 and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual
 25 isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and
 solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected
 derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

6. The compound of claim 5 in which R¹ is hydrogen or (C₁₋₆)alkyl and R² is
 30 hydrogen, -X⁴OR¹³, hetero(C₅₋₁₀)aryl(C₀₋₆)alkyl, (C₅₋₁₀)aryl(C₀₋₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₆)alkyl; or R¹
 and R² taken together with the carbon atom to which both R¹ and R² are attached form

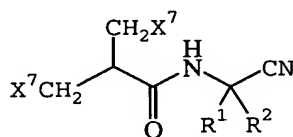
(C₃₋₈)cycloalkylene or hetero(C₃₋₈)cycloalkylene; wherein the cycloalkylene or heterocycloalkylene are optionally substituted with 1 to 3 (C₁₋₆)alkyl radicals;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

7. The compound of claim 6 in which R¹ is hydrogen or methyl and R² is methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, phenethyl, hiophen-2-yl or 5-methyl-furan-2-yl; or R¹ and R² taken together with the carbon atom to which both R¹ and R² are attached form cyclopropyl, tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl or 1-methyl-piperidin-4-yl;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

8. The compound of claim 7 of Formula I(a):



I(a)

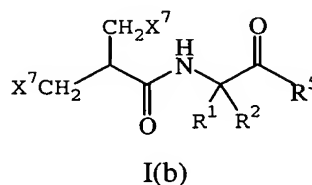
and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

9. The compound of claim 8 selected from the group consisting of 3-biphenyl-3-yl-*N*-cyanomethyl-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide; 3-biphenyl-4-yl-*N*-

cyanomethyl-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide; 3-(3-bromo-phenyl)-*N*-cyanomethyl-
 2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-3-(3-cyano-benzylsulfonyl)-2-
 benzylsulfonyl-methyl-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-2-[2-1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-
 benzylsulfanylmethyl]-3-benzylsulfanyl-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-3-(2-
 5 trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfanyl)-2-(2-trifluoro-methyl-benzylsulfanylmethyl)-
 propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-3-isobutylsulfanyl-2-isobutylsulfanylmethyl-propionamide;
N-cyanomethyl-4-phenylsulfanyl-2-(2-phenylsulfanyl-ethyl)-butyramide; *N*-cyanomethyl-
 3-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzylsulfanyl]-2-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-
 benzylsulfanylmethyl]-propionamide; 3-benzylsulfanyl-2-benzylsulfanylmethyl-*N*-
 10 cyanomethyl-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-2-[2-1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl]-3-benzylsulfonyl-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-3-(2-
 trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonyl)-2-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl)-propionamide;
 4-benzenesulfonyl-2-(2-benzenesulfonyl-ethyl)-*N*-cyanomethyl-butylamide; *N*-
 cyanomethyl-3-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzylsulfonyl]-2-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-
 15 benzylsulfonylmethyl]-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-3-benzylsulfonyl-2-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-3-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonyl)-2-
 (2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonylmethyl)-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-3-(2-methyl-thiazol-
 4-ylmethylsulfonyl)-2-benzyl-sulfonylmethyl-propionamide; 3-biphenyl-3-yl-*N*-
 cyanomethyl-2-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzyl-sulfonylmethyl]-propionamide; (3'-{2-
 20 (cyanomethyl-carbamoyl)-3-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-benzyl-sulfonyl]-propyl}-biphenyl-
 4-yl)-carbamic acid ethyl ester; *N*-cyanomethyl-2-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl]-3-(4'-methylsulfonylamino-biphenyl-3-yl)-propionamide; 3-(3-
 bromo-phenyl)-*N*-cyanomethyl-2-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-phenyl-
 methylsulfonylmethyl]-propionamide; *N*-cyanomethyl-2-((*E*)-3-phenyl-allyl)-3-
 25 benzylsulfonyl-propionamide; and *N*-cyanomethyl-3-benzylsulfonyl-2-(3-phenyl-propyl)-
 propionamide;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual
 isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and
 solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected
 30 derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

10. The compound of Claim 7 of Formula I(b):



and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

11. The compound of claim 10 in which R⁵ is 1*H*-benzoimidazol-2-yl, benzooxazol-2-yl, oxazolo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-yl, benzothiazol-2-yl, 5-phenyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, 4-(5-pyridin-4-yl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, 5-pyridin-3-yl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, 5-pyridazin-3-yl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, pyrimidin-2-yl, pyridazin-3-yl, 3-phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl, 5-methoxymethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, 5-ethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, 1,3,4]thiadiazol-2-yl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxydicarbonyl, phenyldicarbonyl, 5-methyl-[1,3,4]thiadiazol-2-yl, 5-trifluoromethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, 5-methyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl, 5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl, 5-phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl, 5-thiophen-3-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl, 5-trifluoromethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl, 3-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl or 3-pyrazin-2-yl;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

12. The compound of claim 11 selected from the group consisting of *N*-[(*S*)-1-(1-Benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-3-benzylsulfonyl-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide; *N*-[(*S*)-1-(1-Benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-3-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonyl)-2-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzylsulfonylmethyl)-propionamide; *N*-[(*S*)-1-(1-

Benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-pentyl]-4-(2-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-2-[2-(2-methoxy-
 benzenesulfonyl)-ethyl]-butyramide; 4-Benzenesulfonyl-2-(2-benzenesulfonyl-ethyl)-*N*-
 [(S)-1-(1-benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-butyramide; (R)-*N*-[(S)-1-(1-benzooxazol-2-
 yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-2-cyclohexylmethyl-3-benzylsulfonyl-propionamide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-
 5 benzothiazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-propyl]-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-
 butyramide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-3-cyclohexyl-2-
 cyclohexylmethyl-propionamide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-Benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-3-
 isobutylsulfonyl-2-isobutylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-benzooxazol-2-yl-
 methanoyl)-butyl]-3-benzylsulfonyl-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-
 10 benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-4-phenylsulfonyl-2-(2-phenylsulfonyl-ethyl)-
 butyramide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-propyl]-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-Benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-pentyl]-4-
 morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[(S)-1-[1-(3-phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-methanoyl]-propyl]-
 15 butylamide; *N*-[(S)-1-(1-Benzooxazol-2-yl-methanoyl)-butyl]-2-[2-(1,1-difluoro-methoxy)-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl]-3-benzylsulfonyl-propionamide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-*N*-[1-(2-
 oxo-2-phenyl-acetyl)-pentyl]-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-(1,1-Dimethyl-2-
 oxazolo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-
 butylamide; *N*-[1-(5-Ethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-butyl]-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-
 20 benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-[1-(5-Ethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-butyl]-4-
 oxo-2-benzylsulfonyl-methyl-4-piperidin-1-yl-butylamide; *N*-[1-(5-Ethyl-
 [1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-butyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonyl-methyl-4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-
 butylamide; *N*-[1-(5-Methoxymethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-morpholin-
 4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-[1-(5-Methoxymethyl-
 25 [1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-4-piperidin-1-yl-
 butylamide; *N*-[1-(5-Methoxymethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-2-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl-4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-butylamide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-
 benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[1-(5-phenyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide;
 4-Oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[1-(5-phenyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-
 30 piperidin-1-yl-butylamide; 4-Oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[1-(5-phenyl-
 [1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-butylamide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-*N*-

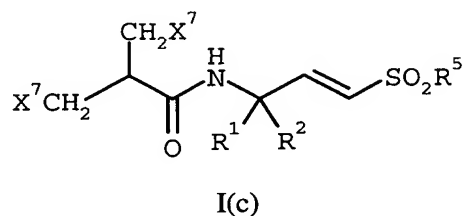
- [1-(oxazolo[4,5-b]pyridine-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Oxazolo[4,5-b]pyridine-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonyl-methyl-4-piperidin-1-yl-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Oxazolo[4,5-b]pyridine-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonyl-methyl-4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-butylamide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[1-(5-pyridin-4-yl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; 4-Oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-4-piperidin-1-yl-*N*-[1-(5-pyridin-4-yl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; 4-Oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[1-(5-pyridin-4-yl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-butylamide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[1-(5-pyridin-3-yl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Benzooxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-4-piperidin-1-yl-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Benzooxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Benzooxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-2-cyclohexylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-Cyclohexylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-*N*-[1-(oxazolo[4,5-b]pyridine-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-Cyclohexylmethyl-*N*-[1-(5-ethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-butyl]-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; *N*-(2-Benzooxazol-2-yl-1-methoxymethyl-2-oxo-ethyl)-2-(2-difluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Benzooxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-2-(2-cyclohexyl-ethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-(2-Cyclohexyl-ethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-*N*-[1-(oxazolo[4,5-b]pyridine-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-(2-Cyclohexyl-ethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-*N*-[1-(5-phenyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; 2-(2-Difluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-*N*-[1-(5-phenyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; 2-(2-Difluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl)-*N*-[1-(5-ethyl-[1,3,4]oxadiazole-2-carbonyl)-butyl]-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Benzooxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-2-(2-difluoromethoxy-benzyl-sulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide;
- 2-(2-Morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-5-phenyl-pentanoic acid, 1-(benzooxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-amide; (R)-2-Cyclohexylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-*N*-[(S)-1-(5-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole-3-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; 2-(2-Morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-5-phenyl-pentanoic acid, (S)-1-(5-phenyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-carbonyl)-propyl]-amide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-[(S)-1-(5-phenyl-1,2,4-

- oxadiazole-3-carbonyl)-propyl]-butyramide; (R)-2-Cyclohexylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-*N*-[(S)-1-(3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole-5-carbonyl)-propyl]-butyramide; 4-Morpholin-4-yl-*N*-[1-(oxazole-2-carbonyl)-3-phenyl-propyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-(1,1-Dimethyl-2-oxazol-2-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-4-Isopropyl-*N*-1-[1-(oxazole-2-carbonyl)-3-phenyl-propyl]-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-succinamide; 2-(2-Difluoromethoxy-benzylsulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-*N*-[1-(oxazole-2-carbonyl)-3-phenyl-propyl]-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-(2-Methyl-propane-1-sulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-*N*-[1-(oxazole-2-carbonyl)-3-phenyl-propyl]-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-Cyclopropylmethylsulfonylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-*N*-[1-(oxazole-2-carbonyl)-3-phenyl-propyl]-4-oxo-butylamide; *N*-[1-(Benzoxazole-2-carbonyl)-butyl]-2-benzylsulfonyl-3-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxymethyl)-propionamide; *N*-[1-(Benzoxazole-2-carbonyl)-butyl]-3-ethanesulfonyl-2-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yloxymethyl)-propionamide; *N*-(1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-oxo-azepan-4-yl)-2-cyclopropylmethylsulfonyl-methyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-Cyclopropylmethylsulfonylmethyl-*N*-{(S)-1-[(R)-hydroxy-(3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)-methyl]-propyl}-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; *N*-{(S)-1-[(R)-hydroxy-(3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)-methyl]-propyl}-2-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; 2-(2-Morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-5-phenyl-pentanoic acid {(S)-1-[(R)-hydroxy-(3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)-methyl]-propyl}-amide; 2-Cyclopropylmethylsulfonylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-*N*-[(S)-1-(3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole-5-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; 2-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-*N*-[(S)-1-(3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole-5-carbonyl)-propyl]-butylamide; 2-(2-Morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-5-phenyl-pentanoic acid, (S)-1-(3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole-5-carbonyl)-propyl}-amide; *N*-[(1S)-1-(Benzoxazol-2-yl-hydroxymethyl)-3-phenyl-propyl]-2-cyclopropylmethylsulfonylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butylamide; (R)-2-((S)-1-Hydroxy-2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-5-phenyl-pentanoic acid, 1-(benzoxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-amide; (R)-5-(2-Difluoromethoxy-phenyl)-2-((S)-1-hydroxy-2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-pentanoic acid, 1-(benzoxazole-2-carbonyl)-propyl]-amide; and 4-Morpholin-4-yl-*N*-[1-(oxazole-2-carbonyl)-cyclopropyl]-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonyl methyl-butylamide;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual

isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the N-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

- 5 13. The compound of claim 7 of Formula I(c):



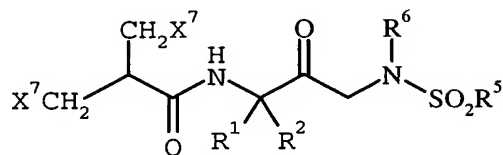
- 10 and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the N-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

- 15 14. The compound of claim 13 in which R⁵ is phenyl;
and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the N-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

- 20 15. The compound of claim 14 selected from the group consisting of *N*-[(*S*)-1-((*E*)-2-benzenesulfonyl-vinyl)-pentyl]-3-benzylsulfonyl-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide and *N*-(3-benzenesulfonyl-1-phenethyl-allyl)-3-benzylsulfonyl-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide;

- 25 and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the N-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

16. The compound of claim 7 of Formula I(d):



I(d)

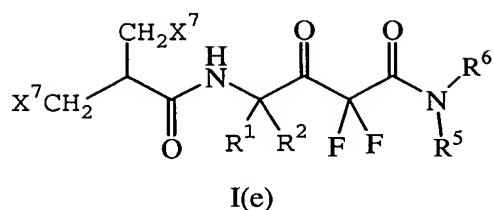
and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

17. The compound of claim 16 in which R^5 is phenyl and R^6 is hydrogen; and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

18. The compound of claim 17 namely *N*-(3-benzenesulfonylamino-2-oxo-propyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butamide;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

19. The compound of claim 7 of Formula I(e):



and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers
 5 and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of
 such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives,
 individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

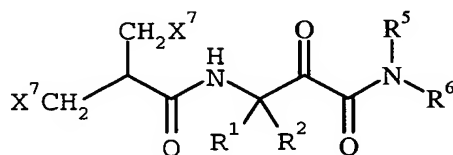
20. The compound of claim 19 in which R^5 and R^6 is methyl;

10 and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual
 isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and
 solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected
 derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

15 21. The compound of claim 20 in which one X^7 is morpholine-4-carbonyl and
 the other is benzylsulfonyl, R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is ethyl, namely (S)-2,2-difluoro-4-(4-
 morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butanoylamino)-3-oxo-hexanoic acid
 dimethylamide;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual
 20 isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and
 solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected
 derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

22. The compound of claim 7 of Formula I(f):



I(f)

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of
 5 such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

23. The compound of claim 22 in which R⁵ is methyl, benzyl, phenethyl, cyclohexyl, methoxyethyl, dimethylaminoethyl, tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl, 1-methylsulfonyl-
 10 piperidin-4-yl, 4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl, morpholin-4-ylethyl, pyridin-2-yl, pyridin-2-ylmethyl or oxazol-2-ylmethyl; R⁶ is hydrogen or methyl; or R⁵ and R⁶ together with the nitrogen atom to which both R⁵ and R⁶ are attached form morpholine-4-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, 4-dimethylamino-piperazin-1-yl, 4-hydroxy-piperazin-1-yl, 4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl, 4-benzoyl-piperazin-1-yl or 3-oxo-piperazin-1-yl;

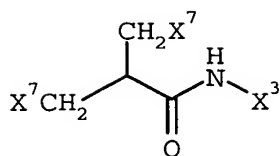
15 and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

20 24. The compound of claim 23 selected from the group consisting of *N*-[(*S*)-1-(1-Benzylcarbamoyl-methanoyl)-propyl]-3-benzylsulfonyl-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-propionamide and *N*-[(*S*)-1-(1-Benzylcarbamoyl-methanoyl)-propyl]-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual
 25 isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

25. The compound of claim 7 of Formula I(g):

30



I(g)

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers
 5 and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of
 such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives,
 individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

26. The compound of claim 25 in which X^3 is 1-benzoyl-4-oxo-pyrrolidin-3-yl,
 10 4-oxo-pyrrolidin-3-yl-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester, 2-methyl-4-oxo-tetrahydro-furan-
 3-yl, 2-ethyl-4-oxo-tetrahydro-furan-3-yl, 4-oxo-tetrahydro-furan-3-yl, 2-acetoxy-4-oxo-
 azetidin-3-yl, 1-isopropyl-3-oxo-azepan-4-yl, 3-oxo-azepan-4-yl-1-carboxylic acid benzyl
 ester, 3-oxo-azepan-4-yl-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester, 1-benzoyl-3-oxo-azepan-4-yl, 1-
 isobutyryl-3-oxo-azepan-4-yl, 3-oxo-1-(propane-2-sulfonyl)-azepan-4-yl, 1-
 15 benzenesulfonyl-3-oxo-azepan-4-yl, 1-benzenesulfonyl-3-oxo-piperidin-4-yl, 1-
 benzenesulfonyl-4-oxo-pyrrolidin-3-yl, 1-benzoyl-3-oxo-piperidin-4-yl or 3-oxo-
 tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual
 isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and
 20 solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected
 derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

27. The compound of claim 23 selected from the group consisting of 3-
 Hydroxy-4-(4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butrylamino)-azepane-1-
 25 carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester; 4-(2-Cyclopropylmethylsulfonylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-
 4-oxo-butrylamino)-3-hydroxy-azepane-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester; 3-Hydroxy-4-
 [2-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butrylamino]-azepane-
 1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester; 4-(4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-

butyrylamino)-3-oxo-azepane-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester; 4-(2-Cyclopropylmethylsulfonylmethyl-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butyrylamino)-3-oxo-azepane-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester; 4-[2-(2-Methyl-propane-1-sulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butyrylamino]-3-oxo-azepane-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester; *N*-(1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-oxo-azepan-4-yl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butylamide; *N*-(1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-oxo-azepan-4-yl)-2-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonylmethyl)-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butyramide; 3-(4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butyrylamino)-4-oxo-pyrrolidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester; 4-(4-Morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butyrylamino)-3-oxo-azepane-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester; and acetic acid (2*S*,3*S*)-3-(4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-2-benzylsulfonylmethyl-butanoylamino)-4-oxo-azetidin-2-yl ester;

and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

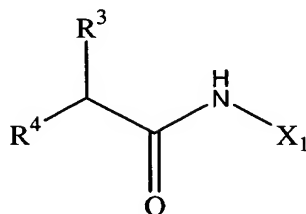
28. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20

29. A method for treating a disease in an animal in which inhibition of Cathepsin S can prevent, inhibit or ameliorate the pathology and/or symptomology of the disease, which method comprises administering to the animal a therapeutically effective amount of compound of Claim 1 or a *N*-oxide derivative or individual isomer or mixture of isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of such compounds and the *N*-oxide derivatives, prodrug derivatives, protected derivatives, individual isomers and mixtures of isomers thereof.

30. The use of a compound of Claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease in an animal in which Cathepsin S activity contributes to the pathology and/or symptomology of the disease.

31. A process for preparing a compound of Formula I:



I

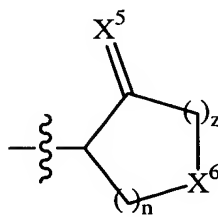
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in which:

X^1 is $-C(R^1)(R^2)X^2$ or $-X^3$;

X^2 is cyano, $-CHO$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)R^5$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)CF_3$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)CF_2CF_2R^9$,
 $-CH=CHS(O)_2R^5$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)CF_2C(O)NR^5R^6$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)C(R^7)(R^8)NR^5R^6$,
 10 $-C(R^7)(R^8)C(R^7)(R^8)OR^5$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)CH_2OR^5$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)CH_2N(R^6)SO_2R^5$,
 $-C(R^7)(R^8)C(R^7)(R^8)N(R^6)(CH_2)_2OR^6$, $-C(R^7)(R^8)C(R^7)(R^8)N(R^6)(CH_2)_2NR^6$ or
 $-C(R^7)(R^8)C(R^7)(R^8)R^5$; wherein R^5 is (C_{1-4}) alkyl, (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl,
 hetero (C_{4-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, (C_{4-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl or
 hetero (C_{4-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl; R^6 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl; R^7 is hydrogen or
 15 (C_{1-4}) alkyl and R^8 is hydroxy or R^7 and R^8 together form oxo; R^9 is hydrogen, halo,
 (C_{1-4}) alkyl, (C_{5-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl or hetero (C_{5-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl;

X^3 represents a group of Formula (a):



(a)

20

in which n is 1 or 2, z is 0 or 1, X^5 is selected from NR^{10} , S or O, wherein R^{10} is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl, and X^6 is O, S or NR^{11} , wherein R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{15}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{15}$, in which

5 X^4 is a bond or (C_{1-6}) alkylene; R^{12} at each occurrence independently is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl; R^{13} is hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl, R^{14} is (C_{1-6}) alkyl or halo-substituted (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^{15} is (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{3-10}) cycloalkyl (C_{0-3}) alkyl, (C_{6-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, hetero (C_{5-10}) aryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl, (C_{9-12}) bicycloaryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl or hetero (C_{8-12}) bicycloaryl (C_{0-6}) alkyl;

10 wherein within X^1 any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical R^{20} selected from $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, and wherein X^1 and R^{20} may be

15 substituted further with 1 to 5 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$ wherein X^4 , R^{12} ,

20 R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above;

R^1 and R^2 are both fluoro; or

R^1 is hydrogen or (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$,

25 $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} ,

30 R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above; or R^1 and R^2 taken together with the carbon atom to which both R^1 and R^2 are attached form (C_{3-8}) cycloalkylene or hetero (C_{3-8}) cycloalkylene;

wherein R^2 , said cycloalkylene and said heterocycloalkylene may be substituted further with 1 to 3 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined above;

R^3 and R^4 are independently $-C(R^{16})(R^{17})X^7$, wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are hydrogen, (C_{1-6}) alkyl or fluoro, or R^{16} is hydrogen and R^{17} is hydroxy and X^7 is selected from $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} are as defined above;

wherein within one of R^3 or R^4 any cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl may be substituted with 1 radical R^{21} selected from $-R^{15}$, $-X^4OR^{15}$, $-X^4SR^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{15}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{15}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{15}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{15}R^{12}$ and $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{15}R^{12}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} and R^{15} are as defined above; and wherein each of R^3 , R^4 and R^{21} may be substituted further with 1 to 5 radicals independently selected from (C_{1-6}) alkyl, cyano, halo, halo-substituted (C_{1-4}) alkyl, nitro, $-X^4NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}C(NR^{12})NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4OR^{13}$, $-X^4SR^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)OR^{12}$, $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4OC(O)R^{13}$, $-X^4C(O)NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)_2NR^{12}R^{12}$, $-X^4NR^{12}S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-X^4P(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4OP(O)(OR^{12})OR^{12}$, $-X^4S(O)R^{14}$ and $-X^4S(O)_2R^{14}$, wherein X^4 , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined above; provided that only one bicyclic ring structure is present within each of R^3 or R^4 ; and provided that when X^2 is cyano and X^7 within one of R^3 or R^4 is $-X^4C(O)R^{13}$ or $-X^4C(O)R^{15}$, wherein X^4 is a bond, then X^7 within the other of R^3 or R^4 is limited to

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(A) reacting a compound of Formula 2:



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(B) reacting a compound of Formula 2 with a compound of the formula NH_2X^3 , in which X^3 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in the Summary of the Invention for Formula I;

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(C) optionally converting a compound of Formula I into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt;

(D) optionally converting a salt form of a compound of Formula I to non-salt form;

- (E) optionally converting an unoxidized form of a compound of Formula I into a pharmaceutically acceptable *N*-oxide;
- (F) optionally converting an *N*-oxide form of a compound of Formula I its unoxidized form;
- 5 (G) optionally resolving an individual isomer of a compound of Formula I from a mixture of isomers;
- (H) optionally converting a non-derivatized compound of Formula I into a pharmaceutically prodrug derivative; and
- (I) optionally converting a prodrug derivative of a compound of Formula I to its
- 10 non-derivatized form.